

Montana Common Core Standards Curriculum Alignment Guide

Purpose

This guide is to aid districts in the process of aligning curriculum to the Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, Mathematical Practices, and Mathematics Content.

Time and Organization

This guide provides a process that may take a year-long period of time dependent on the previous work done with curriculum development and depth of Montana Common Core content knowledge and expertise. The process of using previous curriculum or new curriculum to align to the grade-level specific standards will take months.

Suggestions

- A qualified facilitator who understands the comprehensive system of curriculum alignment
- Informed and active participation of district/school leadership
- Representation from district/school staff on the team for various perspectives and collaborative work
- Establish a district-level sequence based on process resources from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Materials

- OPI Curriculum Development Process Guide
- OPI Standards-Based Materials Selection Toolkit
- The Framework: A Practical Guide for Montana Teachers and Administrators Implementing Indian Education for All
- Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment Professional Development
- Montana Common Core Standards Content Specific Professional Development
- OPI Alignment Templates

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The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

Important Definition

Rigor is an elusive term with multiple meanings. To some, rigor is a mark of excellence. To a K-12 educator, “rigorous” often means “difficult,” as in “AP calculus or AP History is rigorous.”

Rigor is a process where students: approach the subject with a disposition to accept challenge and apply effort; engage in work that promotes deep knowledge of content, analytical reasoning, and use of appropriate tools; and emerge fluent in academic language, proficient with the tools of collaboration and communication, and empowered as critical thinkers.

STEP ONE (1.5 to 3 hours)

- Complete Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment Level One Awareness professional development from a knowledgeable facilitator
- In-depth study of Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment in:
 - the English Language Arts,
 - Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects,
 - Mathematical Practices,
 - Mathematics, and
 - the integration with other content area standards.

STEP TWO (will take place over several sessions)

- See the Montana Guide to Curriculum Development for committee structure and process
- Identify how the current district curriculum aligns to the Montana Common Core Standards. (Grade-Band documents and the Alignment Template are most useful in the following process)
 - Individually highlight common core – green (covered to depth expected), yellow (covered but not to depth of understanding expected), pink (not covered)
 - Share whole group observations
 - Look at district curriculum and highlight in blue what standards (essential learnings, learning outcomes, learning targets, etc.) no longer fit into your grade level
 - Large group finds grade levels to move above standards or decision to eliminate from learning progression
- Prioritize areas of concern
- Create a timeline of completion of transition
- Consider formative, interim and summative assessment as components in the district comprehensive assessment plan that aligns with the curriculum.



Suggested Essential Questions to Guide Discussions

- What is taught now but not in the Montana Common Core Standards?
- What content is essentially the same for each grade-level?
- What will be new content for each grade-level?
- When and how will we create common vocabulary within and across grade levels?
- After reviewing the Alignment Template, how do we plan to upgrade the explicit instruction of the Montana Common Core Standards that are yellow?
- How do we implement with fidelity the Montana Common Core Standards that are in pink?
- What kind of map/pacing guide template should we use?
- What would be an effective format or game plan for rolling out the staff professional development that we need to provide for upgrading areas of concern?

Resources located on the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment

Wiki: <http://montanacommoncorestandards.wikispaces.com/>



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